

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE "CHILD SUPPORT FAIRNESS  
AND FEDERAL TAX REFUND  
INTERCEPTION ACT OF 2000"

## HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 23, 2000

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Child Support Fairness and Federal Tax Refund Interception Act of 2000." This legislation expands the eligibility of one of our most effective means of enforcing child support orders—intercepting the Federal tax refunds of parents delinquent in paying their court-ordered financial support for their children. Under current law, the Federal tax refund offset program operated by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is limited to cases where the child is either a minor or a disabled adult.

It goes without saying that a parent who brings a child into this world is responsible for providing for that child's physical needs regardless of any conflict with the child's custodial parent. Last July, I received a letter from Lisa McCave of Wilmington, Delaware. She wanted to know where the justice was in the IRS allowing her husband to collect a \$2,426 tax refund when he still owed her nearly \$7,000 in back child support just because her son is no longer a minor and is not disabled.

Since her son was three, Ms. McCave has had to work two jobs to make up for child support installments that were never paid. She has spent the better part of her time away from work tracking down her former husband, who has often quit his job as soon as his wages were garnished to repay this debt. Now, she is trying to pay off \$55,000 in parent loans she incurred to send her son to college. Mr. Speaker, we all know the answer to Lisa McCave's question. Under the current law, there is no justice in limiting the eligibility for this tax intercept program to minors and disabled adults.

The good news is that we can correct this injustice. Improving our child support enforcement programs is neither a Republican nor a Democrat issue—it is an issue that should concern all of us. According to recent government statistics, there are approximately 12 million active cases where a child support order requires a noncustodial parent to contribute towards the support of his/her child. Of the \$13.7 billion owed pursuant to these orders in 1998, only half have been paid. Similar shortfalls in past years bring the combined delinquency total to \$35.3 billion. I am confident we can all agree to fix this injustice in our Federal tax refund offset program and help some of our most needy constituents receive the financial relief they are owed.

I would like to clarify for everyone's benefit that this legislation does not create a cause of action for a custodial parent to seek additional

child support. The existing program merely helps custodial parents recover debt they are owed for a level of child support that was set by a court after both sides had the opportunity to present their arguments about the proper size of the child support.

The Federal tax refund offset program is responsible for retrieving nearly one-third of all back child support collected. The time has come to make it a greater success. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation and thank the Ways and Means Committee for its commitment to moving this bill to the House floor for debate in the near future.

HONORING THE GOLDEN APPLE  
SCHOLARS AWARD PROGRAM  
AND MS. SARAH OBERMARK  
FROM ILLINOIS

## HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 23, 2000

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, today I commend the 2000 Golden Apple Scholar award winners from my district. The Golden Apple Scholars program is to recruit talented high school juniors who want to become teachers.

I would like to take the opportunity to recognize Ms. Sarah Obermark from Bond Community High School in Sorento, Illinois. Teachers, like parents, have a unique opportunity—to touch the life of a child. I can't think of a more rewarding experience.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, I was a former high school teacher. I want to wish Sarah all the same joy and success that I shared in my teaching career.

CONGRATULATING ALISON  
LITTELL MCHOSE

## HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 23, 2000

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Alison Littell McHose for her work on the behalf of unwed mothers and their infant children. Mrs. McHose has been chosen as the honoree at the annual dinner dance held by Birth Haven, a compassionate and supportive shelter for unwed mothers. Her selection comes in recognition of the extensive work Mrs. McHose has done on behalf of Birth Haven, including her efforts to secure funding from the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services.

It should come as no surprise that Alison Littell McHose is dedicated to public service and helping those less fortunate than herself. She is the daughter of my good friends state

Senator Robert Littell and Virginia Littell, former chairwoman of the New Jersey Republican State Committee. The Littells raised their daughter with a clear sense of responsibility to the community around her, and instilled in her their own firm values, sense of dedication and fearlessness of hard work.

Mrs. McHose has worked as a legislative aide in her father's Senate office in Franklin, NJ, for 4 years, handling budget issues, constituent case work, news releases, speeches and correspondence. As part of her duties, she acted as liaison between Birth Haven and Senator Littell, who chairs the State Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee. Mrs. McHose helped Birth Haven secure state grants of \$40,000 in the fiscal 1999 state budget and \$50,000 in the 2000 budget. In addition, she was instrumental in handling the case of a former Birth Haven resident who needed state assistance.

Mrs. McHose's work with Birth Haven led to a strong personal interest in the organization. She has visited the facility and made extensive donations of supplies needed by the residents and volunteered her time.

Located in Newton, New Jersey, Birth Haven is a shelter for homeless pregnant women, able to house up to nine women simultaneously in a home-like setting where meals and housework are shared. The women, mostly in their teens or early 20's, are given proper prenatal care and counseling and enrolled for benefits such as Medicaid and the Women, Infants and Children nutrition program. Those without a high school diploma are required to attend class or seek a GED. Courses in homemaking, parenting and job-seeking skills are available as well. Some of the residents were homeless before they became pregnant. Others were kicked out of their homes by parents or boyfriends.

Mrs. McHose's work on behalf of Birth Haven and in Senator Littell's office are only her most recent accomplishments in public service. She was previously a policy council director in education and health care for a grassroots organization in Washington. She also spent four years at the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Treasury Department under the Bush administration.

Active in her community, she is vice-chairwoman of both the Franklin Economic Development Committee and the Franklin Business Development Corporation. She is a founding member of the Franklin Historical Society, a member of the capital campaign committee of the Sussex County YMCA, and an active member of the Junior League of Morristown. She also edits a nationally distributed family publication, *Living Age*.

Mrs. McHose is a graduate of the University of Maryland and Pope John XXIII High School in Sparta. She and her husband, Morgan, are the parents of a 2-year-old son, Logan, and make their home in Franklin.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mrs. McHose on her work on behalf of

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

unwed mothers and their infant children, and in wishing her the best as she continues to address the needs of those less fortunate than herself.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 23, 2000*

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, on March 22, 2000, I was unavoidably detained, causing me to miss roll call votes 58, 59, 60, 61, 62 and 63.

I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 58, "nay" on rollcall vote 59, "yea" on rollcall vote 60, "yea" on rollcall vote 61, "nay" on rollcall vote 62, and "yea" on rollcall vote 63.

#### LIFE UNIVERSITY RUNNING EAGLES—NAIA CHAMPIONS, AGAIN

### HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 23, 2000*

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and admiration I recognize the Life University Running Eagles Men's Basketball Team from Marietta, Georgia. On Monday, March 20, 2000, the NAIA Division I Defending Champion Running Eagles defeated Georgetown College (KY) to win a second NAIA Championship in as many years. This marked the first time in nearly a decade an NAIA team had won back-to-back titles. This was also the third time in four years Life University had captured the NAIA Championship.

Excellence has become the hallmark of Life University sports; but the school excels also in academic pursuits. Life University was founded in 1974 as Life Chiropractic College, and achieved university status in 1997. It has a 26-year history of producing graduates, from a wide variety of degree programs, with the study of Chiropractic remaining its primary focus.

For their achievements, I want to congratulate all of the members of the Men's Running Eagles team, their Coach Roger Kaiser, and the President and Founder of Life University, Dr. Sid E. Williams.

#### HONORING THE CHAMPION JACKSON COUNTY LADY BLUE DEVILS

### HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 23, 2000*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding season of the Jackson County Lady Blue Devils basketball team, which recently captured the 2000 Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Class AA Girls Basketball Tournament championship.

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This is the high school's first championship season since winning the small school tournament way back in 1973. Last year the team lost in the tournament final and used that experience to win this year's tournament.

At 29-7, this year's Lady Blue Devils team displayed a tenacious will to win. This championship season will forever be remembered by each of those talented players who proved that hard work and dedication pay rich dividends.

Members of the championship team are Heather Davidson, Joanna Chaffin, Becca Focer, Jessica Smith, Sarah Jane Breidert, Andrea Davidson, Emily Lane, Lacy Sircy, Ashley Hopkins, Deanna Apple, Alyssa Bowman, Jennifer Harris, and managers Faith Henshaw, Stephanie Clayton and Lucy Anderson. Head coach Jim Brown and assistant coaches Kevin Bray and Barbara Brown, with the support of principal Herbert Leftwich, did a magnificent job preparing the team for this year's stellar season.

Jackson County is proud of its Lady Blue Devils, and I congratulate each of these young ladies for a job well done.

#### RURAL HEALTH CARE PROTECTION ACT OF 2000

### HON. MATT SALMON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 23, 2000*

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Rural Health Care Protection Act of 2000. Among other things, the bill mandates that Medicare+Choice enrollees cannot be held liable by contracted or non-contracted providers for any claims that are unpaid by a Medicare+Choice plan. It also allows the insurance commissioner of a state to apply to the Secretary of HHS for reimbursement for all valid, unpaid provider claims. And, the legislation establishes HCFA as a creditor for Medicare+Choice Amos that go bankrupt.

The need for this legislation is clear. In Arizona, Premier HMO recently announced it was insolvent. Roughly 20,000 seniors have left Premier to return to traditional Medicare (which provides no prescription drug benefit) or have enrolled in an alternative Medicare HMO. Unfortunately, nine Arizona counties no longer have an HMO option. We need to make sure that Medicare+Choice enrollees are not held responsible when bankrupt HMOs fail to pay providers' claims.

Under current law, the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) has the discretion, but is not required, to provide direct reimbursement to health care providers when an HMO fails to make payments for providers' claims. Quite often HCFA makes payments only where Medicare+Choice HMOs continue to operate. If an HMO becomes insolvent, doctors, hospitals, and others are often left unpaid for services already rendered.

In 1997 Congress passed the Balanced Budget Act which included a provision to expand choices for Medicare beneficiaries through the new Medicare+Choice program. It was anticipated that the program would lead to a wider variety of health plan choices for

*March 23, 2000*

beneficiaries in all areas of the country—particularly in rural counties. Unfortunately, there was never a plan to deal with organizations who could not maintain financial solvency. And HCFA has not recognized the need to protect Medicare beneficiaries from defunct health plans—even though they are the financing arm for Medicare.

Even worse, HCFA's regulations have added to the problem by making it more difficult for HMOs and other like organizations to enter the Medicare+Choice program. They make it tough to get in the program and do little for beneficiaries once the HMOs leave. As of last year, there were only 262 health plans across the Nation that participated in the Medicare+Choice program, 84 less than 1998. According to the American Association of Health Plans, nearly 700,000 beneficiaries have had their Medicare+Choice coverage disrupted since the program's inception.

Seniors shouldn't be left holding the bag when health plans go bankrupt. The Rural Health Care Protection Act would ensure that the government fulfills its promise to those seniors who have chosen to participate in the Medicare+Choice program. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation.

#### HONORING THE AMERICAN LEGION JEFFERSON POST 141 2ND SQUAD CHAPLAIN, HOWARD PHILLIPS

### HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 23, 2000*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, today I commend the American Legion, Jefferson Post 141, from Mt. Vernon, Illinois and their Squad Chaplain, Mr. Howard Phillips.

For 27 years, Mr. Phillips has been the Squad Chaplain. He has presided over 800 military funerals for our veterans. He never asks for any compensation for his time or services. I wanted to tell him that he makes this soldier very proud. Thank you Howard.

#### CONGRATULATING JANIE PFEFFERKORN, OF SIKESTON, MISSOURI ON HER RECOGNITION BY THE "DAUGHTERS OF SUNSET"

### HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 23, 2000*

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday March 25, 2000, Janie Pfefferkorn is being honored by the Sikeston, Missouri "Daughters of Sunset" at their 16th Annual Recognition Program. I would like to extend my congratulations to Janie who is being recognized on this day for her community involvement.

Janie was the valedictorian of her senior class at Chafee High School in Chafee, Missouri. She attended Central Methodist College and Southeast Missouri State University. She is the co-founder of the 1996 Christian block Party which evolved into the Mission Missouri.